

**ABSTRACT**

Headerless (i.e., zero byte) data packets are sent by a compressor over a radio bearer. The radio bearer includes a synchronized wireless link. A sequential timer-based value is associated with each of the headerless data packets. A decompressor 5 generates a header based on the sequential timer-based value associated with a given received headerless data packet. A data packet having a compressed header is sent periodically over the synchronized wireless link. The data packet having the compressed header can also be sent when the compressor detects changes in slowly-varying header fields, in response to feedback received from the decompressor 10 indicating that a decompression context is out of synchronization and/or just before talk spurts occur.